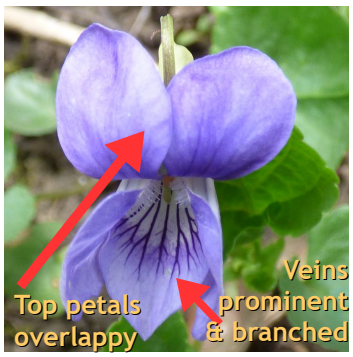
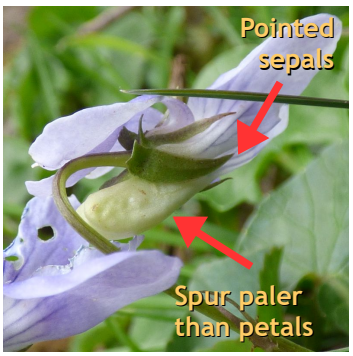
Violas in Edinburgh / Lothians

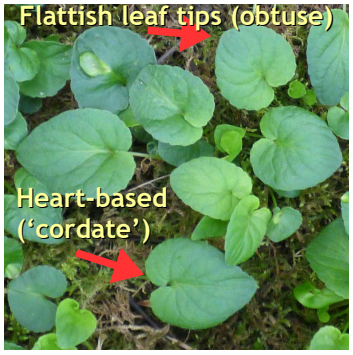
- In our region there are three common (Common Dog, Sweet, Marsh) and three uncommon (Early, Heath, Hairy) Violets.
- Recommended reading is the BSBI Handbook on Violets and Pansies.

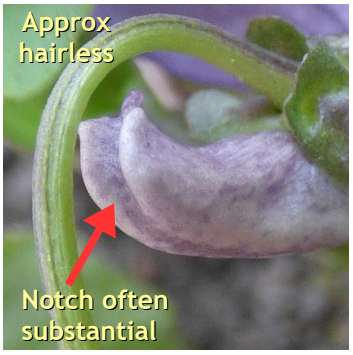
Common Dog Violet - Ubiquitous - Viola riviniana

- Usually a shade of purple but can be rosy (var rosea) or white (f. luxurians).
- The white form has a greenish spur, and when in the vicinity of a purple form a range of intermediate colours will be seen. It can, amongst places, be seen widely in the woods at the entrance to Gogarburn Golf Club and also on the canal banks just past the steps up to the Climbing Centre, Ratho.

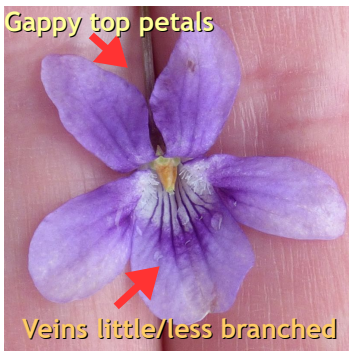


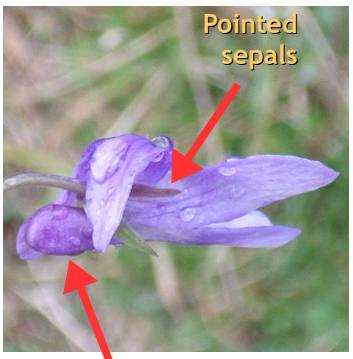






Early/Wood Dog Violet - Very Rare, old records only (UK distribution: South to Dumfries and Argyll & Bute) - Viola reichenbachiana





Heath Dog Violet - Very Rare (photo'd at Harlaw Reservoir) - Viola canina

Sweet Violet - Hairs may be absent; has various colour forms (White or Violet, sometimes Pink or Yellow) - Commonish (particularly as garden escape) - Viola odorata

Hairy Violet - similar to odorata above, but without runners, and the leaf-stem hairs are longer (0.3-1mm) and out-pointing as shown here - Very occasional - Viola hirta

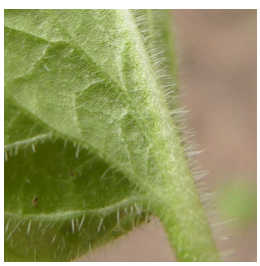
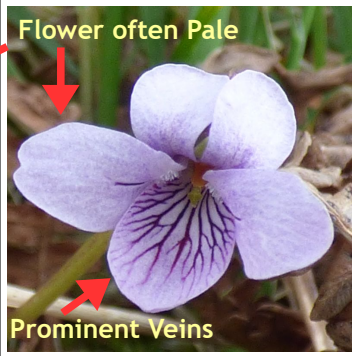
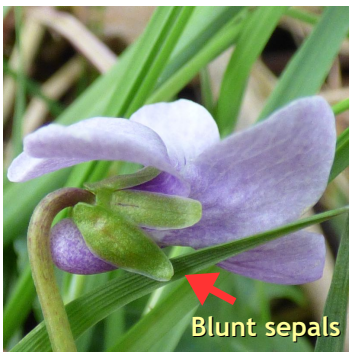


Photo from naturespot.org.uk.

Marsh Violet - Common outside city - Viola palustris

● The leaves emerge from runners under the ground.





Info

Updated : 2019-03-27 – please check you have the latest version!

Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake

Facebook Botany Group for Lothians : facebook.com/groups/lothiansbotany

All items in this Series : paintdrawer.co.uk/nature/edinburgh/downloads.htm